First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti

We Are Listening

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

January 18, 2015 10:00 am

Second Sunday after Epiphany

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

Prelude Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn** **"Sing a Different Song"** **150 NCH** - Steve McGhee

Welcome Ivan Harner

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

Announcements Ivan Harner

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Ringing the Bell

***Hymn** **"I Am The Light of the World"** **584 NCH**

Focusing Prayer (Unison) Ivan Harner

We are listening God. We are drawn irresistibly to the promise of your presence and by the persistence of your call. Speak to your servants here in ways we can understand. We want to hear the message you intend for us. We want to listen, not because someone else needs to have it told to them, but because we ourselves need to remember to listen for guidance. Your expectations for us are high. We tremble before you, eager for our transformation. We are listening. Amen.

Anthem **"Words Like Freedom"** FCC Choir

LISTENING FOR GOD

Old Testament Reading 1 Samuel 3:1-10 Ivan Harner

Hymn **"Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"** **136 NCH**

Children's Time *children are invited to come forward* Carol Hall

Reading from Psalms Psalm 139 selected verses Carol Hall

Reflection **"I'm All Ears'"** Carol Hall

***Hymn** **"Precious Lord"** **472 NCH**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Carol Hall

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time. Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Alternate version Carol Hall

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

Our God, who is in us on earth,
holy is your name in the hungry who share their bread and their song.
Your Realm come, which is a generous land of milk and honey.
Let us do your will, standing up when all are sitting down,
and raising our voice when all are silent.
You are giving us our daily bread in the song of the bird
and the miracle of corn.
Forgive us for keeping silent in the face of injustice,
and for burying our dreams,
for not sharing bread and cup, love and the land, among us now.
Don't let us fall into the temptation of shutting the door through fear,
of resigning ourselves to hunger and injustice,
of taking up the same arms as the enemy.
But deliver us from evil.
Give us the perseverance and the solidarity to look for love,
even if the path has not yet been trodden,
even if we fall;
so we shall have known your Realm,
which is being built forever and ever. Amen.
– Central American Lord's Prayer, adapted From Bread for Tomorrow: Prayers for the Church Year

***Hymn** **"Lead On, O Cloud of Yahweh"** **77 ES**

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

nvitation to the Offering (Unison) Ivan Harner

We have heard you calling us, loving God, in the cries of your children – cries for bread, for justice, for relief. We have seen you beckoning to us amid the corporate greed and social distortions of our day. We have felt the pain of our sisters and brothers caught up in damaging relationships that violate your holy temple within them. Amen.

Offertory Steve McGhee

***Doxology** **"Take My Gifts"** **562 NCH**

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

Prayer of Dedication** ***(Unison) Ivan Harner

We want to help and we believe your church can be Christ's healing presence for them. Show us the way to be messengers of your gentle judgment and powerful good news. May our offerings be used for the transformation of the church, society, groups, individuals and the laws that govern them. In the spirit of the teachings of your Son, Jesus Christ we say, Amen.

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure** **"Peace I Leave with You My Friends"** **249 NCH**

***Benediction** Carol Hall

One: There are many we know whom Jesus is seeking.

Many: It is often difficult to share our faith with our friends,
We hear the call, and we intend to invite them.

One: Jesus promised, "You will see greater things than I have shown you."
We are Christ's messengers today and every day!

Many: The works of our God are wonderful and should be shared,
Christ is our mentor, our Savior, our friend. Amen.

Postlude Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace *Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.*

First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413
218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980
website: ***www.ypsiucc.com***

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God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Our Volunteers	Today: Jan 18th	Next Sunday: Jan 25th
Usher	Marty Kleino	Orin Brustad
Preaching	Carol Hall	Marcia Meabon
Worship Leader	Ivan Harner	Tad Wysor
Worship Set-up	Anne Marie N-T	Donna Eyster
Acolyte	Hunter Turner	Hunter/Desayre
Friendship Time	Melanie Harner	Barbara Garland & Margaret Harner
Sunday School	Tad Wysor	Anne Marie N-T

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL MEETING OF FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC: The Annual Meeting has been postponed and will happen on March 22, 2015 after the service.

DREAM OF JUSTICE: Walt Kemnitz will be bringing the Dream of Justice team from COGS to FCC UCC Ypsilanti today, January 18th to provide their informational presentation on justice issues and incarceration following our service @1130am or so.

CHOIR REHEARSALS: Choir rehearsal this week will be Tuesday at 6:30 PM Come, join the fun and try it out. We have a great time. Don't need to read music or have trained voice.

PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's *address': Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*****,** or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition).** In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.
See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .

KROGER FUNDRAISER: HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!! Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expired May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.